

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough search and examination of the present patent application.

Claims 1-22 have been amended to more clearly define applicant's invention. Claim 2 has been canceled.

Claims 6-11 and 13 stand objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim should refer to other claims in the alternative only.

Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to a Preliminary Amendment filed by applicant's attorneys on January 15, 2004. The January 15, 2004 Preliminary Amendment modified the claims to remove any claim from in multiple dependent form. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-5 and 14-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. More particularly, the Examiner has identified claims terms, including "the joint," "sub-claim," "the main oblong hole" and "the insert" as being unclear limitations or lacking proper antecedent basis. Claims 1-22 have been amended which applicant believes overcomes the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 2-5 and 12 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the above-identified rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to include all of the features of original claim 2. Claim 2 has been amended. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable.

More particularly, the cited prior art references to Koizumi (Japanese Patent No. 405277406A) and Vork (U.S. Patent No. 3,116,882) do not teach or suggest a spray head for a spray gun comprising a central body, a reversible element comprising a channel with a spray hole at each end of the channel and placed in the central body, and two spray inserts, each of which are placed in the channel and opposite to each other, and separated by a fluid-tight joint placed. Further Koizumi and Vork do not teach or suggest the above, wherein one of the inserts

abuts a stop and the other insert abuts a shrink ring such that the inserts are placed under a tension.

Claims 2-22 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and, therefore, are patentable for the same reasons, as well as because of the combination of features set forth in those claims with the claim(s) from which they depend.

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Vork in view of Hedger et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,704,548). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Hedger is cited for showing a spray head having a reversible element along with hair nozzles. The Examiner concludes it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Vork's spray head with air nozzles so as to shape the fluid coming out of the channel. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

As noted above with respect to claim 1, Vork does not teach or suggest the elements defined in applicant's claim 1, as amended. Applicant respectfully submits that Hedger does not supply the elements missing from Vork that are taught by applicant's claim 1. More particularly, Hedger does not teach or suggest two spray inserts placed in a channel and opposite to each other, and a fluid tight joint placed between the inserts wherein one of the inserts abuts a stop located at one end of the channel, and the other insert abuts the shrink ring such that the inserts are placed under tension. Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that claim 14, which depends directly from claim 1, is not obvious over the combination of Vork and Hedger.

Claims 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Vork in view of Hedger et al., and further in view of the combined teachings of Earl (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0010838) and Rhodehouse (U.S. Patent No. 5,255,848). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As noted above with respect to claim 14, applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Earl and Rhodehouse does not supply elements that are missing from the combination of Hedger and Vork taught by applicant's claim 1. Claims 15 and 16 depend indirectly from claim 1 and, therefore, are patentable for the same reasons, as well as because of the combination of features set forth in those claims with the features set forth in claim 1.

In view of the above, applicant submits that all claims in this application are now in condition for allowance, prompt notification of which is respectfully requested.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on January 27, 2005:

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Name of applicant, assignee or
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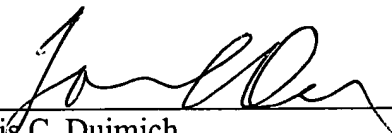

Signature

January 27, 2005

Date of Signature

RCF:LCD:JF:ck

Respectfully submitted,


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